

HUT NEWS

"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"



"Sewage Treatment Plants need no Environmental Impact Statement", says Sartor

In November 2006, BRAID won a landmark case when the Court of Appeal determined that an amendment in 2000 to the Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation meant that on-site sewage treatment plants are "designated development", thus requiring an Environmental Impact Statement. This judgement quashed the approval by the Land & Environment Court of the Parklands development in Blackheath, because it was assessed without an EIS.

But on March 1, 2007 the Planning Minister reversed the regulation, effectively overturning the Court's decision. The new amendment states that sewage treatment plants that are "ancillary" to another purpose, such as a resort, are not designated development. Not only does this pave the way for approval of the Parklands development, it means that sewage

treatment plants across NSW can be approved without an assessment of off-site impacts.

BRAID and environmental groups across the state are appalled by this political intervention. The old regulation didn't prevent development, it merely balanced it with appropriate environmental protection. This has now been swept aside by a stroke of the Minister's pen, making a mockery of the legal process that BRAID faithfully followed to get their result.

BRAID Fundraiser Cancelled

BRAID has cancelled its May 12 fundraising event (advertised in the March 'Hut News'), in favour of a big BASH in June with all BMCS members invited. Watch the May issue of Hut News for details.

Virginia King,
BRAID

(Blackheath Residents Against Improper Development)

WHAT NOW FOR THE ENVIRONMENT? *Four more years of hard Labor? – or will the re-elected NSW Government turn over a new leaf?*

On March 24 NSW voters returned the Iemma Government for another four years. One of the first decisions taken by the new government was to appoint the new member for the Blue Mountains, Phil Koperberg, as Minister for the newly combined portfolios of Climate Change, Water and the Environment. But will Labor's re-election and Koperberg's appointment herald a new era of environmental management in NSW?

At our next monthly meeting, guest speakers Cate Faehrmann, Executive Director for the NSW Nature Conservation Council (NCC), and Leigh Martin, Urban Campaigner for the Total Environment Centre (TEC), will analyse the environmental outcomes of the state election and what they may mean for the Blue Mountains.

- How responsive were the major parties to the election asks presented by green groups?
- How effective were the tactics used by environmentalists during the election campaign?
 - What can we expect from the incoming government?

The NCC is a non-profit, non-government organisation, established in 1955, and is the peak environment body representing over 120 member groups, including the BMCS. The NCC facilitates education campaigns and produces original research and publications.

Cate Faehrmann has been active in environmental and social justice politics for more than a decade across four Australian States as well as in New Zealand. She was appointed Executive Director of the NCC in 2004.

The TEC is an independent, non-profit group, established in 1972, and run by experienced environmentalists and

professionals from diverse fields. It is a veteran of more than 100 successful campaigns to help protect Australia's natural and urban environment.

Leigh Martin has been the TEC Urban Campaigner for over five years and has campaigned to protect the remnant vegetation, improve public transport and increase water recycling and water efficiency measures.

**The meeting commences at 7.30pm
on Friday 27 April at the Conservation Hut,
western end of Fletcher St, Wentworth Falls.**

Visitors most welcome!

(Due to deadline pressures, extensive use was made of material from the NCC and TEC websites -Ed.)

Whilst the BMCS hasn't always seen eye-to-eye with Bob Debus, we would like to thank him for his efforts over many years as both our local member and as Minister for the Environment. We wish him well in his future endeavours—and who knows—we may lock horns once again in a slightly larger arena!



NCC Executive Director, Cate Faehrmann, addresses protesters.

(Photo: www.risingtide.org.au/node/129)

HUT NEWS

"Hut News" is the newsletter of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.
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KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY NUCLEAR-FREE - Public Meeting & "Inhabited" Exhibition

Wednesday 11 April, 6pm

Katoomba Masonic Hall

(Station Street, opp. courthouse)

Entry and food by donation

Join Friends of the Earth, the Blue Mountains Nuclear Free Group and special guests Dr. Jim Green, Dr. Kathleen Sullivan (USA) and Michaela Stubbs for presentations and discussion on this very important issue.

'Inhabited' is an exhibition of photographs and stories from remote communities that are affected by uranium mining and the nuclear industry in Australia. Photographer Jessie Boylan, audio Bilbo Taylor.

More info: natalie.lowrey@foe.org.au, 4782 1181 or 0421 356 067, or go to <http://nuclearfree.blogspot.com/2007/03/nuclear-free-ways-public-meeting-in.html>

These two events are supported by the Katoomba Neighbourhood Centre, Blue Mountains Nuclear Free Group and Friends of the Earth Blue Mountains.

Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort The Modified Concept Plan

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society supported the original concept plan (OCP) for the Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort. It now provides **qualified** support for the modified concept plan (MCP).

The OCP was supported because the Emirates' lands form a buffer on the western side of the Wollemi National Park, and the greater proportion of these lands would be established as a fauna and flora reserve. Furthermore, the OCP complemented the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 Proposal (GoS2) for better protecting Newnes Plateau and the western escarpment, and clearly benefited regional tourism. **None of these reasons has changed.**

In March 2006, Emirates asked to exchange small areas of cattle-degraded land in the immediately adjacent Wollemi National Park, for larger areas of native-vegetated Emirates' land. The MCP formalised this by citing Minister Debus' in principle agreement to exchanging 39.5 ha of Wollemi NP for 114.5 ha of Emirates' land. Although poorly defined in the MCP, Emirates satisfactorily identified the areas on large-scale maps at a meeting in Katoomba (December 15) and on a Wolgan Valley site visit (December 22).

Emirates concurrently advised (in the MCP) that some resort buildings would be on Wollemi NP land that and **they were to be ceded under the land-swap**. These details were also clarified at the Katoomba (December 15) and Wolgan Valley (December 22) meetings.

Because the land-swap was subject to negotiations over indigenous heritage issues, the Minister agreed in principle to Emirates enacting an interim lease over the 39.5 ha of Wollemi NP. Some question the legality of this process, and consequently oppose the entire MCP because it envisages partial development in 39.5 ha at the extreme western edge of the ~500,000 ha Wollemi NP.

BMCS' support for the MCP is contingent upon the successful and legal completion of the land-swap, and/or the legality of the leasing agreement being substantiated. These matters, and other concerns, were included in the Society's submissions to the NSW Department of Planning and the Federal Department of Environment and Water Resources.

The Society contends that the governments (State and Federal) and Emirates must resolve these uncertainties by making stipulations in the conditions of approval. From the Society's viewpoint, **the Wolgan Valley resort's environmental and other benefits should not be lost to the region.**

Brian Marshall

UPCOMING EVENTS and ACTIVITIES.....

CLIMATE CHANGE - DESPAIR & EMPOWERMENT ROADSHOW with Ruth Rosenhek

Sunday 22 April, 1.30 for 2pm start
Katoomba Civic Centre
Katoomba Street

This roadshow is based on the highly successful "Endangered Species Roadshow" which the Rainforest Information Centre organised in the run-up to the NSW state elections in 2003. On that occasion, the subsequent deluge of letters to politicians was one of the factors which led, a week or two before the elections, to Bob Carr promising to protect all remaining old-growth forests in northern New South Wales and, a few weeks after the elections, honouring this with the reservation of 65,000 hectares. Ordinary people can make a difference.

More info: <http://www.climate.net.au>, or <http://nuclearfree.blogspot.com/2007/03/climate-change-despair-and-empowerment.html>

We hope to include an article on the recent Grose Valley Fire Forum in next month's *Hut News*.

However, if you have a keen interest in the latest research you may like to attend the next NCC Bushfire Conference. This will be the 6th of these biennial conferences which have become very well-known and are highly respected in the field.

BUSHFIRE IN A HEATING WORLD

31 May— 1 June 2007, from 9am

Centenary Lecture Theatre,

Royal North Shore Hospital,

Reserve Rd, St Leonards, Sydney

(Fees apply, see 'More info' below)

Bushfire in a Heating World will focus on changing bushfire management practices in the face of climate change. The Conference will explore the changing nature of bushfires, ecological responses, and management practices achieving best possible biodiversity outcomes.

More info: Registration forms may be downloaded at: <http://www.nccnsw.org.au/bushfireconf2007>; or contact Annie Sloggett on 9279 2466 or asloggett@nccnsw.org.au.

Visit the BMCS website at: www.bluemountains.org.au

Letter of the Month — April 2007

COAL STILL KING WITH MAJOR PARTIES

Australians are saying they want to embrace new, clean renewable energy technologies to deal with the challenge of climate change. *"Our political leaders need to catch up with the Australian community on this issue and introduce effective policies which encourage significant clean energy investment"* said Climate Institute Chief Executive John Connor (Sydney Morning Herald 27.2.07).

Dr Tim Flannery, Australian of the Year 2007, commented recently that the enormity of climate change still hadn't cut through to local political leaders. He said *"The public should be asking for much, much more"* (ABC Stateline 23.2.07).

In fact the public are asking for more, according to recent polling conducted by the Australian Research Group. Support for more solar panels was 91%, wind power 82%, investment in new clean-coal technologies 70%, and a reduction in energy consumption 78% (SMH 27.2.07).

However, at the moment neither of the major political parties seem to be hearing anything more than the clean-coal message.

The Leader of the Opposition Kevin Rudd recently stated that a Federal Labor government would put \$500 million into a research fund to include clean-coal technology in the national electricity grid by 2020. The money being promised by Labor would be in addition to a \$500 million fund already created by the Federal Coalition government (SMH 26.2.07).

In fact energy advisers believe a research fund will do little to encourage industry to invest in new technology unless it is accompanied by a price on carbon emissions. The CEOs of more than 40 electricity companies have called for a carbon emissions trading scheme and a national target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (SMH 26.2.07).

Greens leader Bob Brown criticised the Opposition saying the money should go to projects such as energy efficiency and renewable energy industries that would deliver almost immediate reductions in emissions (SMH 26.2.07).

Send short messages to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition making some or all of the following points:

- The Australian Federal government should ratify the Kyoto Protocol to give more certainty to investors in renewable energy industries.
- The Australian Federal government should set a price signal to promote investor confidence, through a carbon emissions trading scheme and a national target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Australia should increase its mandatory renewable energy target to 25% by 2020. The technology is ready but investors must be assured their product can compete with cheap, polluting coal-fired power.

Contact Details: Post to Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600,

The Hon John Howard: <http://www.pm.gov.au/contact/index.cfm>
(This is the only way you can send an email to the Prime Minister.)

Kevin Rudd: Kevin.Rudd.MP@aph.gov.au

Rosemary Lathouris and Robin Mosman



Yes, it's that time of the year again...

Autumn Fungi Forays

This season is shaping up to be a great one for fungi in the Blue Mountains!

If you'd like to learn more about these vital, but often overlooked, components of our ecosystems, why not join one of these activities being run by the ?

Mt Wilson

10am, Saturday 14 April Alec Wood, 9570 1133

Coachwood Glen

10am, Saturday 12 May Elma & Ray Kearney, 9428 5336

Please contact the coordinators directly about these events.

A full listing of the Sydney Fungal Studies Group's activities can be found at: <http://www.sydneyfungalstudies.org.au/activities2007.htm>



A Birthday to Remember...

Bernadette, one of the Thursday Interpretive Walkers, was inspired to write this poem following a birthday encounter she won't forget in a hurry...

"Led by Don Morison, we took the Jack Evan's Track down to Erskine Creek to, in part, celebrate my birthday with me..... especially chosen for me, as I love a swim, but we experienced more exhilaration than we bargained for when a red-bellied black snake swam right into the water with us!"

BERNADETTE'S BIRTHDAY

Around a corner
Bark lifts in an Autumn forest.

Wind in leaf
Water over rock
My hair and spirits lift.

From above, Erskine Creek
seems edged by stretches
of rocky vulval lips;
boulders and streaming waters
merge and surround each other.

Closer, Bloodwood reflections
hold earth and sky,
their leaves rattling and
singing above.

Closer still, walkers become swimmers...
giggling and pointing toes
for a birthday photo.

Wind in leaf
Water over rock
A red-bellied black joins us.....

Our hair and spirits lift !

Bernadette Hodgson, 15/3/07

Whilst Diana's haiku captures the ability of fear to focus the mind in an instant.

AUTUMN HAIKU

What season is this? Depends on what day it is – now summer – and the walking group have gone to Erskine Creek, and half of us are in a waterhole -

Nothing but
the red-bellied black
swimming towards me

Now autumn – and the fungi in Woodford after all the rain are brown, creamy, like beige satin, lacy, like orange peel, vermillion, white, and one is the size of a finger, the shape of a Chinese coolie hat, and a powdery blue.

Rising like muffins
from the oven of the earth
magenta fungi.

Diana Levy

In January 2007, John Howard announced a \$10 billion national water management plan that involved a Commonwealth takeover of Australia's Murray-Darling river system. The plan assigned \$6 billion to modernising irrigation infrastructure, a \$3 billion buy-back package to address over-allocation of water in the drought-ravaged Murray-Darling Basin, and \$0.48 billion for the Bureau of Meteorology to audit Australia's water resources. Less precise parts of the plan envisaged \$1.5 billion investment for on-farm efficiency (to be contributed to by farmers), \$0.225 billion (to be matched by irrigators) to improve water meters and provide more accurate capture of water data, and a taskforce to consider land and water development in Australia's wetter north.

Under the plan, water savings (estimated at 3000 gegalitres per annum) would be shared on a 50/50 basis between irrigators and the Commonwealth, the latter being responsible for ensuring greater water security and increased environmental flows. A sustainable cap would be placed on surface and groundwater use in the Basin.

After the initial splash, in which the media, State Premiers and Federal Labor welcomed the plan, consensus started to break down. The plan's lack of detail hastened this, as did revelations that the plan was not seen by Cabinet and barely seen by the Finance Department. Premier Bracks considered it hastily conceived and unacceptable, Premiers Rann and Beattie had substantial concerns, and only Premier Iemma offered unqualified (electorally expedient?) support. Some in the National Party showed concern over the buy-back system.

The reality

The States have massively over-allocated the Murray-Darling's water resources. Even disregarding climate change, there is insufficient water to supply irrigators, restore environmental flows, or even retain current flows and maintain town water supplies. At least 1500 gegalitres per annum must be returned to the system to ensure its environmental future. And as this is not achievable overnight, there is need for enforced annual interim targets to enable governments to meet the targeted date for achieving 1500 gegalitre per annum.

States traditionally oppose handing their constitutional rights to the Federal government. In the case of the Murray-Darling, there is fear that a Federal government might misuse the power. For example, allocations might be used as a political tool, or to support an economic sector at the expense of the environment. Certainly, Mr Howard's track record of placing business and economic advantage ahead of environmental considerations does not augur well.

John Howard's plan (visionary or opportunistic according to your perception) is timely, but suffers from lack of detail. This has inevitably fanned suspicions.

The positive side

John Howard accepted that the Murray-Darling system, an environmental disaster zone, is over-allocated mainly because of irrigation. He implied that Qld, NSW, Victoria and SA were taking ineffective action because to do otherwise would

compromise their irrigation-based agribusinesses. In essence, why should an upstream state forego its 'share' for the benefit of states down river?

Irrigation infrastructure in the M-D Basin is unquestionably archaic and inefficient, and the water is over-allocated. Only by modernising the infrastructure and buying back some water allocations from irrigators would better environmental, social and economic outcomes eventuate.

Commonwealth intervention should be an inevitable consequence of the large sums of money required and the need to transcend state borders to ensure basin-wide action. As Howard spruiked it, the Commonwealth should control the Murray-Darling system for the benefit of all Australians, unencumbered by the need to satisfy competing state constituencies.

Sounds good, doesn't it?

The negative side

The envisaged expenditure of \$10 billion sounds impressive, but as this is spread over 10 years, the future value is significantly less. Also, because the saved gegalitres of water will lag the modernisation and buy-back programme, any benefit for the M-D will be too long coming; a clear case of irrigators before the environment! Real water must be returned to the M-D now, and provision made for annual incremental increases, irrespective of the infrastructure-modernisation and buy-back programmes.

Disregarding the mix of government and irrigator funds for improving on-farm efficiency and metering, the government (i.e. the taxpayer) will cover the entire cost of modernising external (off-farm) infrastructure, yet will only receive 50% of the water savings; the other 50% is given to the irrigators. This is a bad deal. It provides a poor return for the taxpayer and the environment, while delivering an inducement for more irrigation. And guess who will pay for maintaining the infrastructure?

The plan does not guarantee returning specific flows to the river system. This raises the possibility that, as rainfall decreases (drought and/or climate change), 'environmental' water will be 'temporarily reallocated' to irrigation. This raises two questions. Who will administer the 'saved' water? Does the plan address irrigator and social needs rather than environmental needs? The second question partly depends on the integrity of the water allocation process.

There is an increasing belief amongst the Premiers, environmentalists, and many other stakeholders that refinement of the plan and certainly the allocation system should be handled by an organisation independent of government (e.g. as with the Reserve Bank). This is the only way to avoid perceptions of politicisation. And if this impugns the integrity of state and federal governments, so be it!

With regard to the apportionment between social, economic (irrigator) and environmental needs, I make three points. Firstly, the taxpayer-supported efficiencies will increase the effectiveness of the existing allocations. Secondly, the buy-back programme will presumably enable marginal operations to leave the industry or change their products. Finally, until we have far better data on the sustainability of the M-D Basin's groundwater and surface water resources within the context of climate change, it would be irresponsible to encourage more irrigation.

Conclusions

The biggest impediments to restoring the M-D system are the competitive self-interest of governments, the irrigation industry and its strong political lobby, and the availability of funds. The Howard plan attempts to address funding and bypass the States' self-interest, but it is over-generous to the irrigation industry, fails to remove the potential for politicisation, and gives insufficient comfort to the environment.

Although a grab for political initiative rather than a carefully structured plan, it has opened the door and will hopefully remain a work in progress!



River Red Gums (Photo: <http://www.acfonline.org.au>)

AGGIE ATTACK



Valley Of The Waters Bushcare Group will be holding an "Aggie Attack" on Saturday, 14 April 2007.

Agapanthus has become firmly established in an area behind some houses and they have been creeping further into bushland. Although the Bushcare Group has been steadily working on this problem for some time, we have only managed to put a dent in the number of plants.

We have trialed and had good success with a variety of techniques, including mattocking large plants and clumps, cutting and painting with glyphosate the medium-sized plants and prising out the smaller juvenile plants.

The 2006 Aggie event was a great success in reducing this large Agapanthus patch. However, we need to continue with the work and hope you can help us.

The meeting place is at the bus shelter at the corner of Valley Road and Armstrong Street, Wentworth Falls. We will start from 9.00 am and finish at 12.00 noon, although any time you can spare within this timeframe would be great.

Please bring herbicide-proof gloves, if you have them - if not, they will be provided. Tools and training will be available, as well as a delicious morning tea. We hope to see you there.

Any enquiries, please contact Karen Hising on 4757 1929 or karenhising@bigpond.com.

Karen Hising

Valley of the Water Bushcare Group Coordinator

BMCS Bushcare

The Valley of the Waters Bushcare group works in the Blue Mountains National Park at Wentworth Falls on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Tools are provided but bring morning tea, gloves and drinking water. New members are always welcome.

Contact Karen for more information (details in article above).

Nursery News

Over this past year Nursery News has featured articles on a range of plants available from the nursery and information on botanists associated with them but we have paid little attention to the people who have produced those plants - that grand band of dedicated, persevering and skillful people called the nursery volunteers. Without their efforts I would have had little to write about.

At Blackheath we are inspired by Imre and Joan Gahl, the longest serving of the volunteers, now in their 13th year of service. They are ably supported by our current group of Melissa Bell, Kate Cowper, Naomi Estelle, Vera Hartley, Kryer, Wendy Laughlin, Sue Nicol, Diane Stephens, Gwen Wilson and Margaret Withington. Two of our long-serving volunteers, Stephen Marsh and Lyn Willis, left during the year, with a move to London in Lyn's case and into full-time employment for Stephen.

Bill Tocher keeps things moving smoothly at Lawson and was the initiator of our attendance at the monthly Magpie Markets which have proved to be a lucrative outlet for our plants. He is expertly helped there by Astrid Evans, Simone Bowskill, John King, Ray Kennedy, Esther McFarlane and Joamy Smith.

I and the Society are indebted to them all. Although we have a good number of volunteers there is always room for you if you are a lover of plants and willing to learn the techniques. Just give me a call on 4787 6436.

Autumn is acknowledged as the best time to plant so start planning to buy now! If you missed our huge Autumn sale on the 31st March, don't despair. We will be at the Magpie Markets on Sunday 15 April and 20 May as well as our weekday sales at Blackheath on Tuesday mornings and Lawson on Wednesday mornings. See our web-site for locations and times. Both nurseries will close during the colder months of June and July so don't

delay too long.

We have just supplied the National parks service with 630 plants for initial re-vegetation work at Green Gully, Megalong Valley. We collected seeds for this order in October last year and it was pleasing to see the splendid state of the plants as we handed them over. We will follow the progress of our "children" with interest.

Kevin Bell, Nursery Manager



Nursery volunteers Joan Gahl and Kate Cowper preparing cuttings for propagation at the Blackheath nursery. (Photo: Kevin Bell)

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY BUSHWALKING GROUP

Membership of the bushwalking group is open to Society members. **Cost of insurance and affiliation fees is \$15 per member.**
For further information, contact the Walks Convenor, David Bowskill (4757 3416, davidbow@tpg.com.au).

BEFORE ATTENDING, PLEASE DISCUSS THE WALK WITH THE LEADER (listed below)

- THIS IS ESSENTIAL IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST WALK OR YOU ARE UNSURE OF THE CLASSIFICATION.

MONDAY LEISURE WALKS

Usually 'Short Day' walks of 3-5 hours, suitable for walkers of average fitness. Grade 3 = MEDIUM, these walks may include short rock scrambles or sections off track. Bring morning tea and lunch. Carry at least 1 litre of WATER, 2 litres on warm days.

Apr-16	Luncheon Rock, Bell (Grade 3) <i>Open forest walk.</i>	Ron	4757 1526	Mt Victoria Station	9.00am
Apr-23	Cox's Cave-Ferris Cave-Fairy Bower (3) <i>Mountain heath walk.</i>	Phil	4787 5560	Mt Victoria Station	9.00am
Apr-30	Bus trip to Thirlmere Lakes (3) <i>Walk around lake, BQQ lunch.</i>	Birgitta	4784 3191	BMCC Depot, South St, N.Katoomba	8.30am
May-7	Cox's Cave, Mt Victoria (3) <i>Cave under Mt Piddington.</i>	Phil	4787 5560	Mt Victoria Station	9.00am
May-14	Dangar Island, Brooklyn (3) <i>Small, historic, Hawkesbury River island. Ferry fare \$5.</i>	Mary	4787 6918	Train from Blackheath, change Strathfield for train to Brooklyn.	6.50am

THURSDAY PLEASURE WALKS

Grade 1—3 (EASY—MEDIUM) walks conducted to suit walkers on the day. Slower walkers catered for; on longer walks there may be an option for a slower group to complete only part of the walk. Carry at least 1 litre of WATER, 2 litres on warm days.

Apr-12	Nature walk, Wentworth Falls (Grade 2) <i>Classic walk from Conservation Hut to West Street via Valley of the waters.</i>	Simone	4757 3416	Went. Falls carpark (near clock)	10.00am
Apr-19	Leura Cascades to Gordon Falls (2) <i>Walk along cliff top track (extent determined on the day depending on transport available).</i>	Joan	4782 2218	Cnr Leura Mall & Megalong St.	10.00am
Apr-26	Little Zig Zag to Reinit's Pass (2) <i>Steep descent to below cliff line, ascent via Reinit's Pass</i>	David	4757 3416	Mt Victoria Station	9.45am
May-3	Centennial Glen/ Walls Ledge (2) <i>Walk in attractive valley with views. Handrail provided at Walls ledge.</i>	Phil	4787 5560	Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre	9.40am
May-10	Historical Walk to Mt Airlie (2) <i>Full day visit to Mt Airlie to explore cave dwellings and look at pagodas.</i>	Meredith	4782 4823	Mt Victoria Station (to car pool)	8.45am
May-17	Radiata Plateau Katoomba (2) <i>Walk mainly on firetrails.</i>	Joan	4782 2218	Gearins Hotel, Katoomba	9.30am

WEEKEND WALKS

Before attending, please discuss the walk with the leader or the Weekend Walks organiser, Jim Percy (4758 6009). Carry at least 1 litre of WATER, 2 litres on warm days. Grade 2 = EASY/MEDIUM, Grade 3 = MEDIUM, Grade 4 = MEDIUM/HARD.

Apr-14	Mt Wilson to Wollangambe Canyon (Grade 3) <i>A different Wollangambe Walk –wonderful scenery with sandstone cliffs on each side of cool water, sandy beaches & quiet pools. 8 km: all on track, medium grade descent & ascent, but some steep sections requiring care.</i>	Liz	4754 4966	Mt Victoria Station carpark	9.00am
Apr-21	Noble Canyon and Glow Worm Tunnel (3) <i>Explore this short, deep and dry canyon and the historically significant tunnel, enhanced by the natural beauty of the glow-worm. 8 km: all on track and firetrail, bring torch for tunnel inspection.</i>	Bob	4757 2694	Mt Victoria Station	8:30am
Apr-28	Remains of Airly - discovery walk (2) <i>Airly was established in 1898 by the 200 miners working the shale coal deposits. Lunch overlooking the Capertee Plains beneath the brooding brow of Black Mountain. 8 km: undulating road and track. (A car pool will be organised)</i>	Annemarie	4759 2172	Mt Victoria Station carpark	8:30am
May-5	Glenbrook Creek & Kanuka Brook (3) <i>Enchanting creek with magical pools. 10 km: 50% off track, some creek crossing possible.</i>	Karen	4751 9695	Glenbrook Station	9.00am
May-12	Lawson Ridge to Urella Lookdown (3) <i>Extensive views over Wentworth Creek to the Mt Hay ridge. Track & firetrail, short section off track to reach lookout.</i>	Andy	4758 9770	Lawson Station carpark (N side)	9.00am

Missing your favourite walk?

If you would like to lead a walk, or if you haven't seen your favourite walk on the program for a while and you're not confident to lead it yourself, let me know and I will try to get someone to lead it with you. **Jim** - phone 4758 6009 or email jp34@tpg.com.au.

More bushwalking activities.....!

Navigation Exercises

Jim Percy is willing to conduct a series of navigation classes for interested members.

There will be a little bit of theory to start with, followed by lots of practical on-the-ground training.

He would like expressions of interest from members who would like to participate so that he can ascertain the preferred day/days and times.

Each class will be kept small - 3 or 4 places only. Contact Jim on 4758 6009.

Overnight walk to Splendour Rock

Tuesday 17th - Wednesday 18th April

Splendour Rock has magnificent views over the Kanangra Wilderness area and is the location of the Bushwalkers' War Memorial.

Tue:- Carlton's Farm, Carlton's and Breakfast Cks, Blackhorse Ridge, Mobbs Swamp, Warrigal Gap, Mt Merrimerrigal and Dingo Gap. Camp at Mt Dingo.

Wed:- side trip to Knights Deck, then return to Carlton's Farm.

24 km, mostly on track, Grade 4 (Med/Hard).

Leaders: Bill 4758 8545 & Jim 4758 6009

Bookings essential due to party limit and need to consolidate transport with **Bill** before Sat 14 April.

Welcome to our new members

David Olsson, Springwood
Gail Schwedler, Katoomba
Narelle Spees, Springwood
Chris Yates, Leura

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

Ilan Salbe

4759 2372

ilan.salbe@bigpond.com

Or write to:

**PO Box 29,
Wentworth Falls 2782**